

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 27, 1999, the Examiner noted that claims 1-20 were pending and rejected all claims. Claims 1, 8-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended, new claims 21 has been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-21 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections and objections are traversed below.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract which has been amended in consideration of the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Examiner has also objected to the specification requesting that the numbers that appear in the upper right of each page in association with the page number be deleted. These numbers are the docket numbers of the applicant's company and of the applicant's attorney. Such numbers commonly appear in applications and are generally not objected to by the Examiners since they are part of the header and not the text of the document. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

In the Office Action the Examiner objected to claim 14 and this claim has been amended in consideration of the Examiners comments. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 10, 11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Lucente.

Lucente is directed to a pen based computer input device and flat panel display that can be used by both left handed and right handed persons. The device is designed to be used in four orientations: 1. an orientation in portrait mode for right handed users, 2. an orientation in landscape mode for right handed users, 3. an orientation in portrait mode for left handed users and 4. an orientation in landscape mode for left handed users. The computer system is designed to be used in applications such as word processing, spread sheets, text display, data display and graphic display (see col. 4, ln. 63-col. 5, ln. 1). In each of these uses

the displayed image is displayed in the correct alignment for proper viewing (see Col. 2, ln. 63-col. 3, ln. 2). That is, the image, for example text, is always aligned with the user so that the user can read it. In the terminology of the present invention the use orientation of the display and the spatial orientation of the image being displayed are the same. The system is designed to maintain this lock or correspondence between the use orientation and the spatial orientation because it is difficult to read text upside-down.

In contrast, the present invention is designed to decouple the use orientation from the spatial orientation of the display and of the image being displayed. This is particularly important in the graphics area where menus need to remain oriented to the user while the model being worked-on by the user changes orientation. For example, assume that a house model is being displayed with an original view of the house from the side and a paint menu is also displayed that allows the user to pick the colors that will be used on the sides of the house. As a display showing the house is rotated into a different orientation the view of the model changes from the side to the end of the house. If the accompanying user interface element, such as a menu, were to also be rotated with the house, the menu would be rotated from a planar object to a line object and would be useless for picking paint colors in this rotated orientation. The present invention solves this problem by decoupling the house view (or "spatial orientation of the display") from the menu orientation (or "use orientation" of a "user interface element"). In the invention as the display with house rotates the menu stays oriented to the user. In the example, the display would be oriented to show the side of the house while the menu would remain planar and useable by the user. In effect the menu rotates in the opposite direction from the display so that the menu always stays oriented to the user.

This feature of the orientation of the interface element or use orientation being fixed with respect to the user while the spatial orientation of the display and displayed image with respect to the user change is emphasized in the claims.

It is submitted that the invention of claim independent claims 1, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19 and 20 patentably distinguishes over Lucente and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Page 5 of the Office Action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Sakamoto.

Sakamoto is directed to a system that locks the displayed images and any user interface element together and to the orientation of the display. This can be seen in figures 6 and 7 where the image (for example "A Mode") and the interface element ("<Selection>") are both oriented in the same direction and in correspondence to the portrait or landscape mode of the display. As noted above, the present invention, including as recited in claims 9 and 10, decouples the orientation of the display (and the displayed image) from the interface elements.

It is submitted that the invention of independent claims 9 and 10 distinguishes over Sakamoto and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Page 6 of the Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Lucente in view of Sakamoto.

The combination of Lucente with Sakamoto provides a system in which the interface elements are located to the displayed image such that as the display changes orientation so do both the image and the interface element. This is distinctly different from the present invention as noted previously.

It is submitted that the invention of independent claim 12 distinguishes over Lucente and Sakamoto and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim 6 emphasizes a display orientable in 3 dimensions which is not taught or suggested by the prior art. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

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New claim 21 particularly emphasizes the decoupling of the spatial orientation of the display (and image) from the user interface element orientation such that as the display orientation changes the user interface orientation remains fixed. Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests this.

It is submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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